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Agenda item 104

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 103 at its 3rd to 7th, 14th and 17th meetings, on 25, 26 and 28 September and on 9 and 10 October 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR. 3-7, 14 and 17).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons (A/55/167);

(b) Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué, Okinawa 2000, adopted by the Group of Eight on 23 July 2000 (A/55/257-E/2000/766).

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Committee (see A/C.3/55/SR.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/55/SR.3).

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6. Also at the same meeting a statement was made by the Chief of the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/55/SR.3).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.6

7. At the 14th meeting, on 9 October, the representative of Spain, on behalf of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/55/L.6). Subsequently, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iceland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malta, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 17th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.6 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/24 of 10 November 1999 and 54/262 of 25 May 2000, by which it decided to convene a Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, to be held in Spain, in April 2002,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/1 of 3 May 2000, as well as Commission for Social Development decision 38/100,[1]

Acknowledging the initiatives undertaken and the momentum generated, at all levels, towards addressing the challenges of the ageing of populations and the

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/2000/26 and Corr.1), chap. I.C.

concerns and contributions of older persons by the celebration of the International Year of Older Persons,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 54/262, the General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Reiterating that the Second World Assembly on Ageing should give particular attention, inter alia, to linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries,

Reaffirming the necessity of ensuring that the Second World Assembly will provide an action-oriented follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, and recognizing the importance of an adequate preparatory process,

Reaffirming also that the revised plan of action and the long-term strategy on ageing will contain realistic financial recommendations for its implementation,

Recognizing the continuing process of elaboration of the United Nations research agenda on ageing for the twenty-first century, which is aimed at providing a background for policy responses to ageing, particularly in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons;[2]

2. *Decides* that the Second World Assembly on Ageing will be held at Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002;

3. *Invites* Member States, where appropriate, to consider extending the mandate of national committees or other mechanisms established on the occasion of the International Year of Older Persons in order to undertake national preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and also invites Member States currently without them to consider appropriate ways or mechanisms for their preparations for the Second World Assembly;

4. *Notes* the encouraging responses of Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations to the request by the Secretariat eliciting their views on the progress and obstacles to the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[3] as well as on priority issues to be addressed in a revised plan of action, and encourages those that have not yet responded to consider doing so;

5. *Invites* the regional commissions to explore the feasibility of holding regional activities with Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in their region, in preparation for and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

6. *Also invites* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to launch, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the host country, an information campaign for the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment by the United Nations programme on ageing of the Internet-accessible database on policies and programmes on ageing, and

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[2] A/55/167.

[3] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16) chap. VI, sect. A.

invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the United Nations Secretariat in updating and maintaining the database through the provision of timely information;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.